



BAY AREA

AIR QUALITY

MANAGEMENT

DISTRICT

Request for Comments

September 4, 2020

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: EXECUTIVE OFFICER / APCO
SUBJECT: **Request for Comments – Draft New Regulation 13: Climate Pollutants, Rule 5: Petroleum Refinery Hydrogen Plants**

NOTICE: The Air District is taking steps to ensure Bay Area air quality and public health are protected while the shelter in place order in San Francisco and other Bay Area counties is in place. This includes closing our 375 Beale Street office in San Francisco until further notice. For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.baaqmd.gov/news-and-events/page-resources/2020-news/air-district-operations>.

The staff of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is requesting comments on draft new Regulation 13: Climate Pollutants, Rule 5: Petroleum Refinery Hydrogen Plants (Rule 13-5).

BACKGROUND

A previous draft of Rule 13-5 was initially published in January 2020 for public comment. Following the public workshop and comment period on the January 2020 draft rule, staff evaluated comments and concerns raised by stakeholders. Staff has prepared an updated draft of Rule 13-5 in consideration of these comments.

Petroleum refineries are a large source of methane emissions in the Bay Area. Draft Rule 13-5 would address one of the largest sources of methane emissions from Bay Area petroleum refineries—hydrogen production plants and systems. Currently, some refinery hydrogen plants vent total organic compound emissions during startups, shutdowns and when malfunctions occur. Furthermore, hydrogen plants may vent total organic compound emissions from certain process vents during normal operations. Draft Rule 13-5 would limit vented emissions of total organic compounds from petroleum refineries' hydrogen plants.

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS

A Request for Comments is the next step in the Air District's public engagement process. Staff requests comments and questions on draft Rule 13-5 and Preliminary Staff Report. Following this Request for Comments and close of the public comment period, staff will assess the need for changes to the rule. Staff may consider soliciting further input or may proceed to a public hearing before the Air District's Board of Directors.

For copies of the draft rule language for Rule 13-5 and/or the Preliminary Staff Report, please visit our website at www.baaqmd.gov/ruledev or submit a request to William T.

Saltz, Senior Air Quality Specialist, at (415) 749-4698 or via email at wsaltz@baaqmd.gov. For questions or comments on the updated regulatory proposal, please contact William T. Saltz. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on the draft rule and Preliminary Staff Report. The deadline to submit comments on these materials is Monday, October 19, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.